

HPT at Cannanore in Kerala

434. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the land for setting up of high power T.V. transmitter at Cannanore has been acquired by the Government;
- (b) if so, since when the acquisition was made;
- (c) whether the construction work on the proposed T.V. transmitter at Cannanore has commenced and if not, the time by which it is likely to be started; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the position ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A site measuring 3.5 acres at Mangathuaramba in Taliparamba Taluk in Kerala has been acquired in March, 1994 for the proposed High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) at Cannanore.

(c) and (d) The scheme for setting up of a HPT project at Cannanore has since been approved by the competent authority and the work will start soon. The implementation of the project is expected to be completed during 2000-2001, subject to availability of infrastructural facilities required for the purpose.

Unauthorised Mining of Precious Stone in Orissa

435. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the unauthorised mining of precious stone with the undivided Bolangir, Kalahandi and Phulbani Districts of Orissa; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken to stop such unauthorised mining.?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Checking of illegal mining is essentially the responsibility of the state Government. As per information furnished by the State Government of Orissa, the position is as follows:

In order to stop and reduce such illegal mining, steps have been taken by the concerned mining officers of State Government, Police and Forest Department Officials collectively. From the year 1979 to 1996 more than 50 cases have been filed in different courts by the Police and Mining Authorities in Bolangir district, and 82 cases have been detected in Kalahandi district during the year from 1992 to 1996 and 8 nos. of P.R. cases are under trial at J.M.F.C., Khariar. During such operations different semi-

precious stones of worth about 8 (eight) lakhs rupees in Bolangir district and a quantity of 2654.862 kg. of different semi-precious stones in Kalahandi district has been seized.

Platform level

436. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any request has been received for raising the level of platforms of Parbhani, Selu and Manvat Railway Stations in Marathwada Region of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the time by which this work is likely to be completed.?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir, only for raising platform level of Selu railway station. No. request has been received for other two stations.

(b) The works of raising and extension of platform have already been taken up.

(c) By June 1998.

Air fares Structure

437. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the air fare structure for Himachal Pradesh are higher in comparison to other sectors;
- (b) if so, the extent and reasons for such increase; and
- (c) the steps that are proposed to be taken to rationalise the fare structure applicable to Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) to (c) The Government is presently not regulating domestic air fares and the Airlines Operators are free to charge fares on the basis of commercial considerations.

Late Running of Trains

438. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of that Tirupati-Mysore fast passenger train is always running late;
- (b) whether the Government are also aware of that this train is detained at the Renigunta junction every day due to some avoidable problems;